

1/12/10

RESOLUTION NO. 1244

A RESOLUTION OF THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, OPPOSING THE CREATION OF A REGIONAL WASHINGTON STATE FERRIES DISTRICT THAT WOULD RESULT IN PARTIALLY SHIFTING THE STATE RESPONSIBILITY TO OPERATE AND MAINTAIN A STATEWIDE TRANSPORTATION INFRASTRUCTURE TO LOCAL COMMUNITIES.

WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries make 180,000 trips and carry 23 million passengers and 10 million cars annually, and is the largest ferry system in the nation, yet remains significantly underfunded annually,

WHEREAS, The Governor has stated an intention to introduce legislation to create a regional ferry district to operate the ferries in order to address financial challenges,

WHEREAS, The Governor's proposal would:

- Place the proposed ferry district's decision making in the hands of a board directly accountable to customers and communities and the district's funds would come from fares, a state subsidy to pay for a core level of service, and regional taxing authority
- Create a ferry district within all western Washington counties now served by ferries
- Create a ferry district board that would be elected from areas near current ferry routes and at large board members appointed by the Governor
- Establish a dedicated and ongoing state subsidy level
- Establish a local taxing authority

WHEREAS, Washington State ferry routes are an essential part of the overall statewide highway network, and its 200 miles of marine highway integrates ferry service with other parts of the highway system within urban areas on all sides of Puget Sound,

WHEREAS, Washington State Ferries receives a share of statewide gas-tax money and the state

constitution reserves gas taxes for highway purposes and names state ferries as such a purpose,

WHEREAS, The proposed action assumes that Washington residents who live nearer an expensive part of the highway system should pay more of the cost (not counting user fees) than people who live farther away,

WHEREAS, The proposed action is asking the people of Edmonds, and those nearer Washington State ferry terminals, to pay for the states' failing infrastructure, and as a result, compounds the city's and local communities' shouldering of preexisting burdens to mitigate impacts of state system users, such as traffic congestion, pollution and blights to road and water ways,

WHEREAS, Isolating the needs of the ferry state highway system, and creating another layer of government to address those needs, is not a viable solution as current users and non-users of ferries already pay into the highway system via gas taxes, thus resulting in a double dipping at the local level to fund Washington State Ferries' capital, operational and maintenance needs,

WHEREAS, the proposed action could jeopardize the State's substantial investment in ferry facilities and operations by creating a regional ferry district whose funding recommendations are subject to local voter approval, thus increasing the uncertainty as to whether funding will be available for necessary capital, operational and maintenance needs,

WHEREAS, The State of Washington needs to prioritize existing and future dollars as they relate to funding the ferry system and a develop a comprehensive transportation package that meets the future needs of the entire statewide highway system, including ferries, roads, rail and transit.

WHEREAS, the proposed action will foster a long term major confrontation which is not in the best interests of the State, Cities, Counties and communities where ferry terminals are located, now, therefore,

THE CITY COUNCIL OF THE CITY OF EDMONDS, WASHINGTON, HEREBY RESOLVES AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. The City Council opposes the creation of a regional Washington State Ferries District that would result in the shifting of any statewide responsibility related to capital, operations and

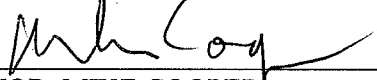
maintenance of the Washington State Ferry system to local communities.

Section 2. Without major reform, ferry customers and ferry dependent communities will face continued uncertainty. Now is the time to address the underlying structural and financial issues that challenge this critical piece of our state's transportation infrastructure,

Section 3. The State of Washington needs to prioritize existing and future dollars as they relate to funding a Washington State Ferry system and develop a comprehensive transportation package that meets future needs of the entire statewide highway system, including ferries, roads, rail and transit.

RESOLVED this 18th day of January, 2011.

APPROVED:



MAYOR, MIKE COOPER

ATTEST/AUTHENTICATED:



CITY CLERK, SANDRA S. CHASE

FILED WITH THE CITY CLERK: 01-14-2011
PASSED BY THE CITY COUNCIL: 01-18-2011
RESOLUTION NO. 1244